



MEALS on WHEELS METRO TULSA

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Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa, Inc., provides nutritious meals, safety checks, and caring contact to elderly, disabled, homebound individuals in Tulsa and surrounding areas. Supporting homebound individuals improves their health while maintaining their independence, dignity, and well-being.

On behalf of the thousands of food-insecure individuals we serve each year, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates by seven percent each year. Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa relies heavily on direct mail to communicate with more than 8,000 donors. A postage increase of this magnitude would reduce the number of meals and well checks we could provide to our frail, homebound seniors.

According to recent studies conducted by AARP, nearly 10,000 Baby Boomers across the nation will turn 65 years old every day for the next 15 years. These Boomers will experience increased life expectancy, and yet, many have fewer dollars saved for retirement. In Oklahoma, according to the Tulsa Area Agency on Aging, nearly half of seniors live in rural areas, and a third of these seniors live at or below the poverty line. These combined factors make it increasingly difficult for the elderly and disabled to access food and receive the nutrition they need. Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa faces unprecedented demand for the services and support we provide.

The majority of our recipients rely on us for over half of their daily food. By keeping mailing costs low, we can deliver more meals and keep seniors who are reliant on Medicare/Medicaid out of hospitals, thus saving the government thousands of dollars a year. Sixty percent of preventable hospitalizations are tied directly to nutrition and/or limited social contact (americashealthrankings.org).

Please help us to serve the greatest number of seniors possible by keeping postal costs low. Thank you for reconsidering your proposal.

Sincerely,

Bob Beard
Vice Presidents of Community Relations and Development
Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa, Inc.

TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.

12620 E 31st St, Tulsa, OK 74146 | 918.627.4105 | MealsOnWheelsTulsa.org